



Scoil an Tamhnaigh

Toonagh, Fountain, Ennis,
Co. Clare

Roll No. 03898U

Tel: 065-6820143

21 October, 2024

Dear Parent(s),

I would like to bring the following to your attention in this October newsletter.

School Open Night and Showcase Event:

We are excited to invite you to our School Open Evening on tomorrow **Wednesday 23rd October starting at 7pm**. This an opportunity for you to see the various programmes we offer your child, meet other parents, see and meet with teachers and staff. At this information night parents can tour the facilities, find out about the school and see what Toonagh NS can offer their child. We are also inviting **prospective new parents** to come and visit our school. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you tomorrow night.

Junior Infant Parent Information Session:

An information meeting for the Junior Infant parents takes place tomorrow **Wednesday 23rd October starting at 7pm** in the Junior Infant Classroom. Refreshments will be served. After this meeting the Junior Infants can attend our open evening in the GP hall.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

Parent teacher meetings this year are scheduled for the week of Monday November 11th. The date and time of your meeting will be sent home this week.

Halloween Dress-up Day and Disco:

On this Friday, 25th of October children can come to school in Halloween Costume/Fancy Dress. Weather permitting the children will take part in a Halloween parade at school.

Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal:

The children of Toonagh N.S. are again supporting this worthwhile charity. Many thanks for your continued generosity over the years to this charity. An information leaflet will be sent home this week. Labels for a shoebox are also attached to this newsletter. The final day for donation of shoeboxes will be Wednesday 6th of November.

Christmas Annuals:

Orders may be placed for Christmas Annuals again this year and the order forms will be sent home after the Halloween midterm break. When the order forms are received, please send back the order form and correct amount to your child's teacher. Each sibling that wants an annual must send back their own form and money to their own teacher. Noelette will have more details on this after the Halloween midterm break.

School Planning and School Self Evaluation (SSE):

School Self Evaluation is where we have to review one specific area of our teaching and learning in Toonagh NS. For the 2024-25 school year we are focussing on improving the pupils' oral Irish. At our recent half in half out staff meeting the teachers discussed and planned further strategies to develop the children's oral and spoken Irish. One strategy we are implementing is a designated notice board in the school contains phrases that the children will be practising each fortnight. Also after the midterm break classes from 1st – 6th will have an online interactive Irish reading book to read and engage with each week from the *Leigh Anois* website. This is an excellent online resource of levelled Irish books for each class 1st – 6th. Please save this link https://www.leighanois.com/na_leabhair. The class teachers will send home further details after the Halloween midterm.

Child Safeguarding:

In order to comply with the Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools, the Board of Management recently carried out the annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. This will be published shortly on our school website. A hard copy of this document can be viewed in the school.

Jolly Phonics Spellings Programme:

For spelling practice we are using the Jolly Phonics Word lists throughout the school. Please ensure that your child practises their prescribed spellings each night.

Toonagh National School attends Cineáltas Launch in Croke Park:

Cineáltas is the Irish word for kindness and this initiative in schools aims to celebrate the positive work that schools are doing to promote wellbeing, inclusiveness and prevent bullying. Minister for Education Norma Foley TD hosted the inaugural Cineáltas showcase and best practice event at Croke Park to recognise best practice school community initiatives to combat bullying. Toonagh NS was one of 18 schools chosen to attend this Showcase event and to give a presentation on the excellent initiatives that the school has in place to promote pupil wellbeing and prevent bullying.

Toonagh NS was represented at the Cineáltas Launch by pupils Ellie Carroll and Jack Casey along with teachers Ms Garrahy and Mr Roughan. Jack and Ellie are both in 6th class and are members of the Student Council. At this event Jack featured on RTE News2day while Ellie was chosen to be on the panel with Minister for Education to discuss how Toonagh NS promotes wellbeing. Minister Norma Foley presented the representatives from Toonagh NS with a special Cineáltas Certificate to acknowledge their work to prevent bullying and to promote equality, inclusion, diversity and wellbeing within the school community. Thanks to all the staff for the great efforts they make through many different initiatives in our school for creating a culture of kindness, respect and inclusion through many different initiatives in our school such as our Buddy Bench, Kindness Awards, Walking and Talking each morning and Buddy with a Junior. This culture helps to promote wellbeing and prevent bullying behaviour in Toonagh NS. The whole experience was a great honour for the school and photos of the day will be available to view on our Instagram Page soon. We raised our Cineáltas Flag recently which is now flying outside our school.

Secondary School Open Days - Sixth Class Pupils:

These are ongoing at the moment. Please see the secondary school websites for details of their open days and the date applications are accepted from or you can contact the secondary schools directly for this information.

Party Invitations (Infant Classes only):

Invitations to parties may be distributed in the Junior and Senior Infant Classes at school. However, in all other classes, we would ask that you issue invitations to children outside of school time, as it can cause upset and disappointment to some children if they don't receive an invitation. We hope you understand this situation and we appreciate your consideration on this matter.

School Sport:

- **Cross Country:** Well done to all the boys and girls from 1st to 6th class who took part in the North Clare Cross Country competition in Lees Road. All the children acquitted themselves very well and a number of children have progressed onto the County Finals on Tuesday November 19th. Thanks to Mr. Eusatace, Ms. Garrahy and Ms. Cullinan for training our runners for this event.
- **Gaelic Football:** Our Boys' and Girls' have played very well in the Cumann na mBunscol Competition. Both team have put in a great effort at training and both have qualified for the semi finals. Thanks to Mr. Eustace and Ms. Barry for training our footballers.

Christmas Concert:

The children are looking forward to our Christmas Concert this year. It will take place on Thursday December 5th starting at 7pm.

Parents Association (PA) News:

- **Clothes Collection:** The Clothes Collection was a great success and we received a great response. We'll hear this week how much was raised. All monies raised from this collection will be for important school resources for the children. Thanks for your support.
- **Coffee morning for Cahercalla Hospice Care:** The coffee morning for Cahercalla Hospice Care raised €879.25. thanks for your support and well done to our Parents Association for organising.
- **Book Fair:** It will take place Wednesday November 13th – Wednesday November 20th. The PA and Noelette will issue further details at a later date.
- **Recent AGM:** Thanks very much to the parents who attended and who have volunteered to help out with the PA this year. Best wishes to the committee: Lourda, Laura, Fiona and Annette. Thanks to the wider body of parents who help our Parent Association with their events.

Important Dates coming up:

- **Wednesday October 23rd:** School Open Evening and Showcase event @7-8pm.
- **Wednesday October 23rd:** Junior Infant Parents Information meeting @7pm.
- **Friday October 25th:** School closes for Halloween mid-term break. Halloween Dress up day!
- **Monday November 4th:** School reopens after Halloween mid-term break.
- **Week of Monday Nov 11th:** Parent Teacher Meetings.
- **Wednesday Nov 13th – Wednesday Nov 20th:** Book Fair.
- **Thursday December 5th:** Christmas Concert starting @7pm.

I wish you all a happy Halloween and a nice midterm break.

Gearóid Roughan

Principal

- Cut out your label.
- Tick the relevant age box.
- Glue the back of the label and stick to the top right hand corner of your box (using tape if necessary).

TEAM HOPE

BOY

My box is for:

2-4
YEARS

5-9
YEARS

10-14
YEARS

TEAM HOPE

GIRL

My box is for:

2-4
YEARS

5-9
YEARS

10-14
YEARS